

Good afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dana Cline and I am here to express concerns about Proposed Senate Bill 666, An Act Concerning Safe Residential Treatment Facilities For Effective Recovery.

It is important for men and women coming out of treatment to have a safe environment. Sober houses are a starting point for us to learn how to live life on life's terms. I have lived in a sober house for the last 2 months. I have learned how to live with others, how to be self-supporting and how to be responsible without having to face the world alone. When I first came out of treatment over a year now, I didn't know how to live sober or responsibly. I live with other women who work, go to meetings, meet family obligations, and pay their bills. We have responsibilities and priorities today. We help and support one another.

Communities need sober housing- it is a place where people new to recovery can learn how to handle the pressures of life with support. I don't know where I would be today without my sober housemates.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue. Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs.